

Message Text

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20

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STR-04 COME-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 ITC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /083 W

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R 270858Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1176

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ETRD TW US

SUBJECT: SECTION 301 PETITION FILED BY CHARLES REHFELDT, LAI FU

TRADING CO., LTD.

REF: (A) TAIPEI 5358, B TAIPEI 5836, C STATE 176962

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA SEPTEMBER 23-24, AMBASSADOR YEUTTER, DEPUTY SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, MADE SEPARATE REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING SUBJECT SECTION 301 PETITION TO MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS Y.S. SUN AND VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE L.T. HSU. AMBASSADOR YEUTTER STRESSED THE US DESIRE TO HAVE THE RESTRICTIVELY HIGH TARIFFS ON THE CONSUMER ITEMS INVOLVED LOWERED TO REASONABLE LEVELS, E.G. TO 33 PERCENT ON COLOR TV AND SOME REDUCTION OF THE 104 PERCENT DUTY ON SYNTHETIC CARPETS. HE NOTED THAT WITH A RESURGENT ECONOMY AND LARGE FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES THE ROC COULD EASILY AFFORD INCREASED IMPORTS.

2. MINISTER SUN SAID THAT THE TARIFFS WHICH HAD BEEN ADMINISTRATIVELY RAISED SHOULD NOT PRESENT A PROBLEM, AS THEY CAN BE ADMINISTRATIVELY LOWERED. HE INDICATED THAT CHANGES DOWNWARD IN LEGISLATIVELY

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ESTABLISHED RATES ARE NOT SO EASY AS THEY REQUIRE

LEGISLATIVE ACTION. VICE MINISTER HSU SAID THAT THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES WERE IMPORTANT TO THE ROC AND WOULD CERTAINLY BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION.

3. AMBASSADOR YEUTTER ASKED THE EMBASSY TO FOLLOW UP ON HIS DEMARCHES WITH THE APPROPRIATE ROC AUTHORITIES, WHICH WE WILL DO. AS MATTERS NOW STAND ON THE REQUESTS CONTAINED IN ECON COUN LETTER OF JULY 23 TO FINANCE MINISTER WALTER FEI, (SEE REF A), REFLECTING US OBJECTIVE (SEE REF C), THE DUTY ON COLOR TV SETS AND STANDS HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 45 PERCENT, RATHER THAN THE 33 PERCENT REQUESTED, WHILE THE RATE ON REFRIGERATORS (INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD FREEZER CHESTS) HAS ALSO BEEN REDUCED TO 45 PERCENT, THIS AS REQUESTED. NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON AIR CONDITIONERS OR SYNTHETIC CARPETS. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASSURED THAT NO ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED TO RAISE THE DUTY OF 46 PERCENT ON AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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